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The Secretary of State expressed concern over the flight
plan as proposed by CIA, involving as it did extensive peripheral
coverage as well as two segments directly over Cuba. He said that
such a long flight incurred exposure unnecessarily because the
substantial peripheral portions could be flown as peripheral
flights and that the portions involving direct overflight of Cuba
could be handled with less exposure time if they would not combine
with a peripheral mission. He recognized the necessity of obtaining
vertical coverage of the Isle of Pines and the eastern portion of
Cuba. He felt, however, that it was unwise to combine extensive
overflying of international waters with actual overflights. He pointed
out that the long peripheral flight would draw undue attention to the
mission and further that should the aircraft fall into enemy hands
after an overflight had occurred, this would put the United States
in a very poor position for standing on its rights to overfly
international waters.